



# U.S. House of Representatives

## Committee on the Judiciary

### F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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#### ***News Advisory***

For immediate release  
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### **Voting Rights Act Hearing Tuesday to Focus on VRA Sections Concerning Assistance of Federal Voting Examiners and Observers**

**What:** Oversight Hearing entitled, "Voting Rights Act: Sections 6 and 8 – Federal Examiner and Observer Programs"

**Who:** Subcommittee on the Constitution – Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Chairman

**When:** 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2005

**Where:** 2141 Rayburn Building

*In 2007, certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) will expire, including Sections 6 and 8 dealing with the assistance of federal voting examiners and observers. Tuesday's hearing will focus on the impact that Sections 6 through 8 have had on protecting minority voting rights.*

#### **BACKGROUND...**

- ✓ In the VRA, Congress authorized federal intervention in the form of: (1) federal examiners to review, prepare, and maintain voter registration lists for federal, state, and local elections conducted in a covered jurisdiction; as well as (2) federal observers to ensure that the protections afforded by the VRA were enforced within the applicable covered jurisdictions.
- ✓ A total of 148 covered counties and parishes in 9 states have been certified by the Attorney General for federal examiner coverage.
- ✓ Since 1965, federal examiners have registered 112,078 minority voters though none since 1983.
- ✓ During the consideration of previous extensions of the VRA, federal examiners and observers were described as critical to the VRA, serving as an effective deterrent against abuses and intimidation experienced by minority voters.

#### **THIS HEARING WILL...**

- ⇒ Examine the role that federal examiners and observers have played in ensuring that the voting process is equally open and accessible to all voters.

**WITNESSES:** Ms. Nancy Randa, Dep. Associate Director of Talent Services, Human Resources Products and Services Division, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; Ms. Penny Pew, Elections Director, Apache County, Arizona; and Mr. Barry Weinberg, former Dep. Chief and Acting Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

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